Unauthorised sale of coal by TISCO

4046. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TISCO has unauthorisedly sold coal from the colliery including middlings and slurry leading to loss to State exchequer and inviolation of the mine lease terms and the Mines and Minerals Regulation Development Act;

(b) if so, the details regarding the facts of the matter vis-a-vis Bihar Government's claim along with the Central Government's view point thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard indicating whether similar cases of violations that have come to the notice of the Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) According to information furnished by Coal Controller, after ascertaining the quality, the coal found unfit for use by Steel Plants, such as rejected coal and washery tailings are being released by him from time to time which are being sold by Tata Iron & Steel Company Limited (TISCO) to non metallurgical consumers. Coal Controller has informed that he has not received any complaint regarding excessive prices being charged by TISCO.

Government of Bihar want that this coal should be sold by TISCO to Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation (BSMDC) for resale. BSMDC may approach Coal Controller and TISCO in this regard with their proposal.

Variations in the costs of production in different coal companies

4047. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are variations in the costs of coal production of different coal producing companies in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, company-wise;

(c) whether Government have ascertained the reasons of higher costs of coal production, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any schemes have been formulated to improve the situation; and

(e) if so, what are the details of the schemes, company-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of production of coal in different coal producing companies under Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company

mited during 1991-92 were as under:—

Company	Cost of production (Rs. per tonne)
1. Eastern Coalfields Limited	Rs. 526.50
2. Bharat Coking Coal Limited	Rs. 446.56
3. Central Coalfields Limited	Rs. 269.71
4. Northern Coalfields Limited	Rs. 203.79
5. Western Coalfields Limited	Rs. 311.68
6 South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	Rs. 238.37
7. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	Rs. 141.90
8. Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	Rs. 452.96

(c) Of the seven coal producing Subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, the cost of production is higher mainly in the underground mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited, because of adverse geo-mining conditions, and a large manpower. The cost of production is lower in respect of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Northern Coalfields Limited and South Eastern Coalfields Limited mainly because of operation of large mechanised open cast names in virgin areas. The cost of extracting coal in Singareni Collieries Companies Ltd. is higher because the major rising is from deep underground mines and difficult geo-mining conditions.

(d) and (e) Some of the major steps being taken to bring down the cost of production of coal are as follows:—

1. Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caus edby natural wastage.

2. Control on increase in manpower through voluntary retirement schemes.

3. The concept of all men all jobs' is being tried on an experimental basis.

4. Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

5. Improvement in the availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments.

6. A number of systems improvernment and managerial measures have been adopted to improve effciency of operations.

Opening of new coal company by CIL in Orissa

4048. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited has decided to open a new coal company in Orissa; and

(b) if so, what is the name of the place where the headquarters of the proposed coal company will be located?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 on 3.4.1992 and has been functioning